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TUESDAY
APRIL 20, 1954

André de Staercke and I lunched together today at Chez Marius. It appears almost certain Spaak will be Foreign Minister. André intends to continue as Belgian Representative to NATO. He thinks all the participating governments should ascribe more importance to this post and make it the key diplomatic appointment for each Foreign Office. If Spaak receives office before the week end, de Staercke hopes he will come to Paris and have a talk with Foster Dulles.

Phil Bonsal came to see me. He is working here on preliminaries for the Indo-China part of the Geneva Conference. With the rainy season normally due within three weeks in Indo-China, he fears the Dien Bien Phu affair may turn out badly. If the position can be held until the great rains come, the French tanks and armored vehicles will thereafter be unable to maneuver, nor would there be any prospect of relieving the beleaguered garrison. He hopes the French will soon make an agreement with Viet-Nam satisfactory to both parties so the criticism -- in some respects undeserved -- of France for continuing colonialism in that area may be diminished.

Things were dull at the office today, with considerable talk about that mare's-nest, the Saar.

E.'s measles have confined her to bed, but the attack does not seem as violent as might have been expected, probably due to her having taken an innoculation against it a couple of weeks ago.

I had a shock when I paid the chef tonight. His bill from the 22nd of March to the 28th was 80,142 francs, from March 29 to April 4 82,481, and from the 4th of April to the 11th of April 369,861 francs. This was exclusive of all wines and liquors, which were supplied by myself, and of the butler's accounts, which are sure to be formidable.

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